



HORWICH URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR YEAR 1953



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HORWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman—Councillor Mrs. M. J. Downes.

Members—Councillors H. Almond, J.P., E. Blackburn, J. Carr, J. Fairclough, W. E. W. Flockton, J.P., J. Hargreaves, C.C., L. Rimmer, A. Sharples, W. Tomkinson, J.P., E. Toohey, S. A. Wolfe.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health:

§ T. Patton Sewell, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary and Meat Inspector:

K. Ratcliffe, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary and Meat Inspector:

E. Clarkson, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk:

Mrs. F. R. Wilde to 17th October, 1953.

Mrs. D. Reid from 29th October, 1953.

§ Also Divisional Medical Officer;

Divisional Health Committee No. 11,
Lancashire County Council:

Divisional School Medical Officer;
Lancashire County Council:

Medical Officer of Health;

Borough of Leigh:

Urban District of Atherton.

Urban District of Tyldesley.

Urban District of Westhoughton.

Public Health Department,
Public Hall,
Horwich.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Horwich Urban District Council.

Mrs. Downes and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the annual report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District of Horwich for the year 1953 together with certain statistics relevant thereto.

Statistics.

According to the Registrar General's mid year estimate the population of the district has increased from 15,520 last year to 15,670 this year.

During the year there were 214 live births, practically the same number as last year, and there were 6 still-births. Thus the Live Birth Rate for the year is 13.7 and the Still-Birth Rate 27. The latter is an appreciable increase on the rate for the previous year and is the result of an increased number of congenital malformations over which, in the present state of our knowledge, we have unfortunately little or no control.

Of the 214 live births 9 died during their first year giving an Infantile Death Rate of 42. Here again congenital malformations have played their tragic part.

On the maternal side, however, it is very gratifying to be able to record another year free from a maternal death.

A total of 181 persons died (all causes) during the year, a reduction of 10 on the number the previous year, and 35 less than in 1951. The Adjusted Death Rate for 1953 is 11.2 as compared with 11.9 in 1952. You will see from the table in the body of the Report giving the various causes of death that the number of deaths from heart disease have decreased whereas those from cancer have increased.

Health Services.

The personal health services listed in Section B of this report have again been provided by the Lancashire County Council through its Divisional Health Administration Scheme. For full details of these services I would invite your attention to my report as Divisional Medical Officer.

Sanitary Circumstances, Food and Housing.

As in previous years the sanitary circumstances of the district have been kept under close supervision, particular attention being given to water and food supplies; housing and sanitation and to smoke abatement.

Infectious Disease.

Apart from measles and whooping cough there has been no outbreak of infectious disease of any moment. 1953 was a normal epidemic year for measles when 196 cases were notified. The occurrence of 37 cases of whooping cough underlines the need for mass immunisation against this debilitating, and sometimes lethal, disease. A few sporadic cases of chicken pox occurred in strong contrast to the previous year when 160 cases were notified.

Acknowledgements.

In conclusion once again I am most grateful to you all for your continued interest and encouragement and to the Chief Officials and their staffs for the help and co-operation throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,

T. PATTON SEWELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	3,254.
Population - Census 1951	15,552.
Population - 1953*	15,670

(*Registrar General's Mid-Year Estimate - 1953)

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953),
according to Rate Books, 5161

Rateable Value £84,887

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate £330.

Social Conditions.—No material change.

Vital Statistics.—

(Rates calculated on a population basis of 15,670).

LIVE BIRTHS	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	103	108	211
Illegitimate	1	2	3
	—	—	—
Total	104	110	214
	—	—	—

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000) 13.7

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	nil	nil	nil
	—	—	—
Total	4	2	6
	—	—	—

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births) 27

DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total
All causes	93	88	181
Crude Death Rate (per 1,000)			11.6
Adjusted Death Rate (per 1,000)			11.2
Maternal Deaths			
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis			nil.
Other Maternal causes			nil.
Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 live and still Births)			nil.
Infantile Deaths (under 1 year)			
Legitimate	8	1	9
Illegitimate	nil	nil	nil
Total	8	1	9
Infantile Death Rate (per 1,000 live births)			42
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			31
Rate per 1,000			2.04
Deaths from Diphtheria (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Tuberculosis			4
Rate per 1,000			0.25

The following is a statment showing comparative statistics in respect of years 1948-1953

Year	Infantile Mortality											
	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Still Births		Maternal Mortality		Total		Neo-natal	
	No. registered	Rate per 1000 Pop.	No. registered	Rate per 1000 Pop.	No. registered	Rate per 1000 Pop.	No. of Deaths registered	Rate per 1000 total births	No. of Deaths registered	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of Deaths registered	Rate per 1000 live births
1953	214	*13.7	181	*11.6	6	27	nil	nil	9	42	4	18
1952	212	13.7	191	12.3	4	19	nil	nil	6	28	6	28
1951	215	13.9	216	14.0	3	14	nil	nil	5	23	3	14
1950	205	13.2	203	13.1	7	33	nil	nil	4	20	1	5
1949	236	15.3	218	14.1	8	32	1	4.10	10	42		
1948	223	14.5	178	11.5	10	42	nil	nil	4	17		
Ave. 5 yrs 1948-52		14.1		13.0		28		0.82		26		

* Adjusted birth rate (comparability factor 1.01) = 13.8 per 1000
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 0.97) = 11.2 per 1000

The following table gives the number of deaths from the various diseases during the year 1953:

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All Causes	93	88
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	0
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	1
Syphilitic Diseases	0	0
Influenza	0	0
Measles	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0	0
Acute Infectious Encephalitis... ..	0	0
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M) Uterus (F)	0	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	6	3
Cancer of Breast	0	2
Cancer of all other sites	15	5
Diabetes	0	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	13	18
Heart Diseases	28	30
Other diseases of Circulatory System	3	4
Bronchitis	3	4
Pneumonia	4	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	1	1
Appendicitis	0	0
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa	0	0
Nephritis	2	3
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	0	0
Other Maternal Causes	0	0
Premature Birth	0	0
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infant Diseases	5	1
Suicide	2	0
Road Traffic Accidents	0	1
Other accidents	2	5
All other causes	6	6

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1953.

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns

	England and Wales	160 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Admin. County
Births :	Rates per 1,000 Home Population			
Live Births	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5
Still „	(0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38
	{ 22.4 (a)	24.8 (a)	21.4 (a)	21.0 (a)
Deaths :				
All Causes	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	—	—
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Tuberculosis	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24
Influenza	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15
Smallpox	00.0	0.00	0.00	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64
Notifications (Corrected) :				
Typhoid fever... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal Infection ...	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet fever	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02
Whooping Cough	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles... ..	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09
Pneumonia	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)				
Paralytic	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07
Non-Paralytic	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Food Poisoning	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38
Puerperal pyrexia	18.23 (a)	24.33 (a)	12.46 (a)	28.61 (a)
Deaths :	Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
All causes under 1 year of age	26.8 (b)	30.8	24.3	24.8
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales

Intermediate List No. and cause	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)	Rates per million women aged 15—44
A115 Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	68	0.10	
A116 { Abortion with toxæmia	7	0.01	1
Other toxæmia of pregnancy & the puerperium	166	0.24	
A117 Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	90	0.13	
A118 Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia	30	0.04	3
A119 Abortion with Sepsis ...	39	0.06	4
A120 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium ...	125	0.18	

(a) Per 1,000 (live and still) Births.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

Ambulance Service.

Horwich Ambulance Station - Tel.: Horwich 673.

Care of Children - Children Act 1948.

Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council.
Area No. 4.

Area Children's Officer - Mr. W. J. Payne,
14, Victoria Buildings, Wigan. Tel. Wigan 3367.

Clinics.

1. Ante-natal.
Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.
Monday a.m.
2. Artificial Sunlight.
Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.
Monday and Friday a.m.
3. Diphtheria Immunisation.
Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.
By appointment.
4. Maternity and Child Welfare.
Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.
Wednesday and Thursday p.m.
5. Ophthalmic.
School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich.
2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesday a.m.
6. Orthopædic.
School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich.
1st Wednesday each month.
7. Post-natal.
Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.
Monday a.m.
8. School Health and Minor Ailment.
School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich.
Monday a.m. and p.m. and Thursday a.m.
9. Speech Therapy.
No local facilities.

10. Tuberculosis Dispensary and Chest Clinic.

- (i) 34, St. Thomas' Road, Chorley.
- (ii) 19/23, Darley Street, Farnworth.
- (iii) Civic Centre, Bolton.

11. Venereal Diseases.

- (i) Civic Centre, Bolton.

Males and Females - Monday, Wednesday and
Friday 9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.
2-0 p.m. to 7-30 p.m.

- (ii) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

Males - Wednesday 2-0 p.m. to 7-0 p.m.
Females - Wednesday 2-0 p.m. to 4-0 p.m.
4-30 p.m. to 7-0 p.m.

Convalescence.

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C.
Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Convalescent Treatment.

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital
Board.

Health Visiting Service.

Two Health Visitors/School Nurses employed in the dis-
trict by Lancs. C.C.

Home Help Service.

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C.
Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Home Nursing Service.

Two District Nurses employed in the district by Lancs.
C.C.

Hospitals.

Bolton Royal Infirmary; Townleys Hospital, Farnworth;
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan; Fall Birch
Isolation Hospital, Horwich; and other hospitals situated
in the region of the Hospital Board.

Laboratory Facilities.

Regional Hospital Laboratories at Bolton and Wigan
Infirmaries.

Maternity Homes.

“Haslam,” “Havercroft,” and “Heaton Grange” Maternity Homes, Bolton.

Midwifery Service.

Two full-time domiciliary midwives provided by the Lancs. C.C. practice in the district.

Nursing Homes.

Newlands Nursing Home, Bolton.

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children.

Provision for their care is made by the Lancashire County Council.

Council for Moral Welfare Work.

Moral Welfare Worker for the area:-

Mrs. I. Wilson,
Gaskell House,
9a, Churchgate,
Bolton. Tel. Bolton 1524.

Welfare Services.

Under arrangements made by Lancs. C.C.

Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Residential accommodation at Atherleigh Grange and
Townleys Hospital Annexe. No hostels.

X-ray Facilities.

Available at Bolton Royal Infirmary and the Wigan Infirmary. Special facilities for chest X-ray at the Hospital Board's Dispensaries and Chest Clinics.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—The following table shows the approximate number of houses and types of supply in the district:-

With water piped in from mains.	With water piped in from private supply.	Supplied by stand pipe from mains.	Relying on well or spring without piped supply.
5129	28	5	4

The public water supply is derived from the surrounding moorlands and a deep well pumping station, the whole being owned by the local authority. The water is passed through pressure filters and is chlorinated.

Samples of both the local authority and private supplies have been taken and all these proved to be satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Only extensions to new estates have been made during the year.

Closet Accommodation.—The Council's scheme whereby it is proposed to eliminate all the waste water closets in the town by the end of 1960 has made satisfactory progress. This year the conversions have all been carried out on a voluntary basis with the aid of a £9 grant towards the cost.

During the year authority was given to 103 owners to carry out the work and a total of 132 conversions were actually carried out; this number includes those converted during 1953 after authority had been granted the previous year. There now remain approximately 600 of this type of closet.

In addition the remaining trough closets were converted to fresh water closets at one of the schools. This type of closet is now completely eliminated.

Public Cleansing.—Pail closets and dustbins are emptied each week there being approximately 5465 dustbins and 54 pails. During the latter part of the year a new Shelvoke and Drewry 11.3 cubic yard refuse vehicle was put into service now making the vehicle strength two by 8 cubic yards, and one 11.3 cubic yards.

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on the Red Moss Tip. During the year 2340 pails and 294,200 dustbins were emptied by the Council's workmen making approximately 5402 tons of refuse removed.

Salvage.—There was a decline in the trade requirements of waste paper with a consequent slump in price. Towards the end of the year, however, the market was better. Clean waste paper and kitchen waste were salvaged together with metal scrap. A total of 125 tons of material was collected and sold.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area.—The following is a classified statement of the number of inspections and re-inspections:-

Housing defects and nuisances	1996
Dairies and Milkshops	50
Ice Cream Premises	35
Food Preparing Premises	198
Factories Act	118
Infectious Diseases	56
Verminous Premises	35
Water Supply	14
Conversion of waste water closets to fresh water closets	378
Drainage	255
Shops Act	239
Schools	11
Smoke Abatement	83
Refuse Removal and Disposal	341
Market	129
Rodent Control	1107
Miscellaneous Visits	50

As a result of these inspections a total of 1175 defects or nuisances were discovered during the year and 1689 were abated. The latter figure includes a number abated which were discovered in the previous year.

The following is a summary of nuisances and defects remedied:

Damp walls remedied	148
House roofs repaired	152
Repairs to windows and doors	90
Defective spouting and rain water pipes repaired	96
New water closets provided and water closets repaired	201
New dust bins provided	341
Houses cleansed	15
House walls re-plastered	103
House floors repaired	18
Repairs to drains	416
Yards repaired	8
General repairs and nuisances	101

Factories Act, 1937.—In accordance with the provisions of Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act, 1937, the Medical Officer of Health is required to report specifically on the administration of matters under Parts 1 and 8 of this Act, which are administered by the District Council.

PART I OF THE ACT.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	23	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	71	79	7	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	11	16	—	—
Total ...	92	118	8	—

Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector By H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	7	5	—	6	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..					
Total ...	8	6	—	7	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.—There is only one outworker in the district. The premises have been visited and found satisfactory.

Shops and Offices.—No change.

Camping Sites.—Towards the end of the year a survey of the area was made in order to ascertain the extent of camping which could be controlled under the Public Health and Town Planning Acts.

As a result of this survey 6 caravans have been licensed under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 and one licence refused. In addition planning permission has been granted to six owners for a twelve month period and one has been refused.

There still remain two further sites which include caravans and similar structures and consideration is being given to these.

Smoke Abatement.—In an endeavour to eliminate the source of a persistent grit nuisance large scale observations were carried out over a period of two months. This was done in conjunction with Officers from the Fuel Efficiency Division of the Ministry of Fuel and Power. By the end of the year under review no definite conclusions had been reached as to the most effective remedy.

In addition to this particular activity other chimneys were observed and representations made where excessive smoke was noticed.

Offensive Trades.—No offensive trade is carried on in the district.

Common Lodging Houses.—None registered.

Houses Let in Lodgings.—None Registered.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—During the year 4 houses were found to be bug infested. The houses were disinfested with a D.D.T. emulsion and further reinspected after treatment. Before tenants are removed to Council houses their belongings are inspected and general cleanliness insisted upon.

Schools.—All schools have been visited and inspections made and a detailed report of defects found was submitted to the Education Authority. During the year the remaining obsolete type of trough closets were converted to fresh water closets. All schools in the district now have these amenities.

Rag, Flock, and other Filling Materials Act, 1951.—No premises have been registered under the Act.

Other Sanitary Conditions.—

There is still much to be done by way of converting the town's waste water closets but a great step has been made by the scheme to combine compulsory and voluntary methods. During the year 132 such closets were converted.

Rodent Control.—All complaints have been investigated by the Rodent Operator and in many instances by the Sanitary Inspector. The following table shows the work carried out in treating surface infestations:-

	No. inspected.	Total Inspections.	No. of Treatments.
Local Authority property	36	205	2
Dwelling houses	320	600	104
Business premises	228	277	9
Agricultural premises	27	17	—
	611	1099	115

In addition to the above the town's sewers have been treated twice during the year in February and August. The use of Warfarin has proved most successful when treating large infestations and it has been particularly effective on the Red Moss Tip and when treating large infestations at factories.

SECTION D.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—The number of distributors registered by this authority is as follows:-

Operating from dairies within the district	2
Operating from shops in the district	18
Operating from shops outside the district	6

The number of licences granted by this authority under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations is as follows:-

“Tuberculin Tested” Milk	5
“Pasteurised” Milk	7
“Sterilised” Milk	24

Throughout the year samples have been taken of all milk distributed in the district whether designated or not with the following results:-

(a) Raw Milk:

- (i) Tuberculosis - biological tests—77 samples, 4 of which proved positive.

The positive samples were immediately notified to the Divisional Veterinary Inspector, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and were followed up by visits from the veterinary officer. In one case an animal was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

It is interesting to note that the number of samples taken and subjected to tests for the presence of tuberculosis were greatly increased during the year under review and consequent upon this there was an increase in the number of samples containing live tuberculosis.

- (ii) Biochemical examinations—15 samples of which 1 proved unsatisfactory. (The unsatisfactory samples were reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

(b) Heat treated milk:

- (i) Phosphatase test—2 samples one of which proved unsatisfactory.

- (ii) Methylene blue reduction test—2 samples which were satisfactory.

- (iii) Turbidity test—8 samples which were satisfactory.

Ice Cream.—There are 4 persons registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream and 37 premises registered for the sale of ice cream under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1939.

These premises are regularly inspected and are kept in a very satisfactory condition. The following table shows the results of samples of ice cream taken in the district during the year. In the classification grades 1 and 2 are to be regarded as satisfactory and grades 3 and 4 unsatisfactory. All the ice cream proving unsatisfactory has been followed by visits to the premises and notification to the appropriate authority where the premises were outside the district. As a result of these visits large scale alterations have been carried out at one premises with satisfactory results. It is to be noted that the methylene blue test used in the grading of ice cream is not a statutory standard and serves only as an index of its bacteriological cleanliness and not its actual safety for human consumption:-

Samples from	Grade				Total Samples
	1	2	3	4	
Local manufacturers	6	2	2	4	14
Not locally manufactured	5	6	—	—	11
	—	—	—	—	—
	11	8	2	4	25
	—	—	—	—	—

Food Premises.—Premises, including restaurant and hotel kitchens together with factory canteens where food is prepared, stored or offered for sale have been inspected and a general satisfactory condition has been maintained.

Clean Food Campaign. A large number of shops in the town consist of general stores which in addition to selling other articles sell food. For this reason a high proportion of the 345 shops are food shops and the following tables show in more detail the number of premises, by type of business, in the district which sell food:-

Type of business.	No.
Greengrocers, including those selling wet fish	16
Bakehouses and general provisions	32
Grocers and general	48
Fish and Chips	18
Butchers	19
Soft drinks, sweets and ice cream	15
Confectioners and mixed	5
Cafes	3
Fishmongers	1
Public Houses and Hotels	19
Total	176

No. of food premises, by type registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act or under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act:-

Type of business (excluding dairies)	No. registered at 31-12-53.	No. of inspections of registered premises during the year.
Meat and meat food products	21	173
Fish,, fruit and vegetables	4	
Ice Cream	46	
Preserved food	19	
Preserved fish	18	

The total number of inspections of food premises during the year was 283 and on each visit food handlers were reminded of the dangers associated with lack of hygiene and a high standard of cleanliness was insisted upon.

Food Poisoning.—None notified.

Food Condemned.—The following meat and other foods were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

Cheese	5 lbs.
Meat	58 lbs.
Pickles	3 lbs.
Tinned Chicken	2 lbs.
Tinned and Bottled Jam	47 lbs.
Tinned Fish	87 lbs.
Tinned Fruit	773 lbs.
Tinned Meat	248 lbs.
Tinned Milk	31 lbs.
Tinned Soups	46 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables	286 lbs.
Tinned Cream	10 oz.

Shell Fish.—There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

Markets.—There is a covered Market which is open each Friday.

SECTION E.

HOUSING.

Statistics.—Number of houses and flats erected during the year:-

(i) by the Council	122
(ii) by other bodies	21
Number of dwelling houses inspected	441
Number of inspections made	1996
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	321
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action taken (includes those rendered fit after notice last year) ...	363
Statutory Action taken under the Housing Act 1936	Nil
Statutory Action taken under the Public Health Acts in which formal notice to remedy the defects was served	43
Number of houses in which defects were remedied as a result of formal notice	34

Houses are still required for letting, there being 165 on the housing register who are living in rooms and 64 overcrowded separate occupiers. Those in rooms are mostly young married couples who have not yet found homes of their own.

In addition to the housing list a number of sub-standard houses exist, which, when opportunity presents, might be considered for clearance.

To meet the demand the Council has built 122 dwellings during the year and a further 21 were built privately. Of the 122, however, 67 were completed and let to key workers employed at a nearby aircraft factory.

There are under construction 110 dwellings by the local authority and 7 by private enterprise. Of those now being built by the local authority only 9 remain for key workers at the nearby aircraft factory.

The present building programme has made quite an impression on the housing list and steady progress is being maintained.

The general standard of housing is fair. Defective roofs and rising dampness are a source of trouble. Repairs to the former will be greatly assisted with the advent of the new rent legislation at present before Parliament but the general disposition of the town is responsible for much of the dampness.

SECTION F.**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

Chickenpox (Varicella).—Only 14 cases were notified this year as against 160 last year.

Diphtheria.—There were no cases.

Dysentery.—Five cases were notified.

Encephalitis.—No case was reported.

Erysipelas.—There were four cases.

Food Poisoning.—No case reported.

Malaria.—No case reported.

Measles.—As expected this disease was fairly widespread, 196 cases being notified as against 83 last year. Cases generally, however, were mild in nature and complications exceptional.

Meningococcal Infection.—No case reported.

Mumps.—Not notifiable.

Paratyphoid Fever. No case reported.

Pneumonia.—There were 17 cases.

Poliomyelitis.—One case occurred.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—No case reported to this Department.

Scarlet Fever.—There were only 13 cases this year as compared with 79 in 1952. Two cases only were admitted to hospital.

Smallpox (Variola).—No case.

Tuberculosis.—There were 7 new pulmonary cases and one new non-pulmonary case notified. Four cases died, three from a pulmonary infection and one from a non-pulmonary infection.

Typhoid Fever.—No case.

Venereal Disease.—Not notifiable.

Whooping Cough.—37 cases were notified, an appreciable increase on last year when only 7 were reported.

Cases of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1953.

Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases Notified											Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	
	Total cases at all ages	Age Periods—Years									65 and over			Age un- known
		0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—					
Smallpox	13	—	1	1	9	1	1				—	—	—	
Scarlet Fever	—													
Diphtheria.....														
Typhoid Fever.....														
Paratyphoid Fever.....														
Measles, except German Measles.....	196	1	23	54	103	13	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough.....	37	1	9	13	13	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Pneumonia.....	17	1	1	2	4	—	2	3	3	1	—	—	6	
Puerperal Pyrexia.....														
Cerebro Spinal Fever														
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Acute Polio-encephalitis.....														
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica.....														
Dysentery	5	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	
Malaria:—														
Contracted in England and Wales ...														
Abroad														
Food Poisoning														
Chicken-pox	14	1	—	7	6			—	—	—	—	—	—	
Totals...	287	4	34	77	137	15	5	7	7	1	3	—	6	

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1953.

Notifications :

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Sex.	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 and over	Total
Males				1				1	1			3
Females			1				1	2				4

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Males												
Females											1	1

Deaths from Tuberculosis :

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Males									2	1		3
Females												nil

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Males												nil
Females											1	1

All fatal cases of tuberculosis were notified.

